

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 143

By Crowe

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Thomas Ray Whitehead
upon his graduation from the United States
Capitol Police Program.

WHEREAS, our nation was conceived by individuals who were willing to sacrifice their personal concerns to ensure our individual and collective safety; the men and women who serve as law enforcement officers have chosen a profession which more than occasionally places them in harm's way; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those officers who work with purpose and alacrity to become more skilled protectors of the common good; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is Thomas Ray Whitehead, who graduated on January 24, 2003, from the United States Capitol Police Program in Washington, D.C.; and

WHEREAS, a native of Elizabethton, Officer Whitehead graduated from Unaka High School in 1994, and he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice from East Tennessee State University in 1999; and

WHEREAS, he has completed twelve hours of course work towards a Master's Degree in Public Affairs from Western Carolina University; and

WHEREAS, the Valedictorian of his Basic Law Enforcement Training Class in the Spring of 2000, Thomas Ray Whitehead earned his Basic Law Enforcement Certification in North Carolina and joined the Asheville Police Department in January 2000; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure there, Officer Whitehead was a member of the Asheville Police Department Honor Guard, and was named Officer of the Month in July 2000; and

WHEREAS, in addition, Officer Whitehead has completed the Basic Police Training Program at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, where he earned the Expert Shooting Award and the Driver Training Award; and

WHEREAS, Thomas Ray Whitehead also earned the Expert Shooting Award and Academic Honors at the United States Capitol Police Training Academy; and

WHEREAS, in August of 2002, he accepted a position with the Senate Division of the United States Capitol Police; and

WHEREAS, he has served his country with honor and distinction both as a law enforcement officer and, from 1995 through 2001, as a Reserve Infantry Rifleman with the United States Marine Corps; and

WHEREAS, as a Reservist, Officer Whitehead served as Infantry Squad Leader and Firearms Instructor for M16 and 9mm pistols; he has certification and training in Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical Warfare, Combat in Urban Terrain, and Rappelling; and

WHEREAS, in addition to such military certifications, he has been trained and certified in First Aid and First Responder, CPR, RADAR Speed Enforcement, Ballistic Shield Operator, Mobile Data Terminal, ASP Baton, Pepper Spray, High Speed Pursuit Driving, and Basic Narcotic Recognition; and

WHEREAS, Officer Whitehead is a member of Pi Gamma Mu International Honor Society; and

WHEREAS, Thomas Ray Whitehead is most grateful for the love of his most proud parents, Ray Allen and Sarah Whitehead; and

WHEREAS, he epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Thomas Ray Whitehead for his dedication to upholding the freedoms and ensuring the continued safety and prosperity of this nation; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Thomas Ray Whitehead upon graduating from the United States Capitol Police Program in Washington, D.C., thank him for his many years of meritorious service to the people of this country, and extend to him our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.